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Cuba Offers to Return Body of American Pilot

Havana Papers Also Say Mother Was Asked
to Identify Son Lost in Bay of Pigs Attack

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HAVANA (UPI)—Havana newspapers said Wednesday the Cuban Red Cross will return to his family the body of pilot Riley W. Shamburger, one of four Americans killed in the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion.

The press reports added that the Cuban government had invited the mother of the pilot, Mrs. Riley W. Shamburger Sr., of Birmingham, Ala., to come to Cuba to identify the remains of her son.

In Birmingham, Mrs. Shamburger became hysterical on hearing the Havana report. A neighbor said the mother "would never accept" that he had been killed. "She's just in a terrible state," the neighbor said.

In Crashed Plane

(Shamburger was flying with three other Birmingham area men when their plane crashed on or about April 19, 1961. The other men were later identified as Wade C. Gray, an electronics technician; Thomas Ray and Lee F. Baker.

(Shamburger, a test pilot, was apparently at the controls of the plane when it went down during the ill-fated invasion. They were flying a C-46 cargo plane when one engine went out.)

Widows of the four men have received \$125,000 each.

Every two weeks since the men were lost. The checks were drawn on Bankers Trust Co. of New York and an attorney said the money came from a Central American anti-Castro group.

Paid by Trust Fund

Alex E. Carlson of Miami, the attorney, said the money was from a trust fund set up by Castro opponents after the men were given up for dead.

Carlson said a number of fliers were recruited to fly against Castro during the invasion and the four Birmingham area men were in a cargo plane converted for light strafing when it developed engine trouble and was presumed crashed. Parts of the plane were believed found on a small island. There was no trace of the men.

All four of the men were veteran fliers and all had worked at one time for Hayes International, a Birmingham aircraft firm.

At one time Shamburger's mother accused the United States of withholding information about her son. She said she sent inquiries to President Kennedy but he gave "evasive" answers to her letters.

"They are still holding back," she said at the time.

"They're avoiding an answer."

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